

RECORD TYPE: FEDERAL (NOTES MAIL)

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SUBJECT:: USCAR: Whitman letter in today's WSJ; Connaughton letter in NYT

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TEXT:

FYI, Phil

----- Forwarded by Phil Cooney/CEQ/EOP on 06/10/2002
10:07 AM -----

Samuel A. Thernstrom
06/10/2002 09:57:30 AM
Record Type: Record

To: Phil Cooney/CEQ/EOP@EOP
cc:
Subject: USCAR: Whitman letter in today's WSJ

To the Editor:

Your June 5, 2002 editorial, "More Hot Air on Kyoto," is an interesting combination of fact and fiction. You're on solid ground in your discussion of some of the reasons that the Administration opposes the Kyoto Protocol; our policy has been clear and consistent. The U.S. will not ratify the Kyoto Protocol because its targets are arbitrary and not based on sound science, because it would have a devastating effect on the American economy, and because it requires no action from the vast majority of the world's nations.

But you slip into the realm of fiction when you attempts to drive a wedge between EPA and the rest of the administration on climate policy. On climate change, there is only one Administration policy, which received

the unanimous support of the president's cabinet and senior advisors. Any implication that there is a lack of unity on the issue within the administration, or a lack of steadiness in the policy, is simply not true.

The administration's Climate Action Report as a whole does nothing to undercut the president's policy. It highlights the significant remaining uncertainties in the science of global climate change, particularly regarding any future effects, and the need for thoughtful actions including more than 67 ongoing programs detailed in the report that will reduce emissions of greenhouse gases without jeopardizing economic growth.

On February 14, 2002 President Bush announced his climate change policy, noting that global climate change presents a set of challenges different from those involved in cleaning up air pollution, and that it requires a different strategy. He pointed out that the science is far more complex, the answers less certain, and the technology less developed. He called for a flexible approach that will promote and adjust to new information and new technology. And he announced that the U.S. will cut greenhouse gas intensity the amount we emit per unit of economic activity by 18% over the next 10 years. This policy is appropriately calibrated to our state of knowledge of climate change science, current energy and sequestration technologies, and the need to preserve a strong American economy.

Christie Whitman
Administrator
Environmental

Protection Agency

Washington

New York Times, June 10, 2002
Letters to the Editor:

Bush Is Concerned About the Climate

To the Editor:

"U.S. Sees Problems in Climate Change" (front page, June 3) says that the predictions of the U.S. Climate Action Report 2002 "present a sharp contrast to previous statements on climate change by the administration."

Actually, last year President Bush noted the rise in surface temperatures and concentrations of greenhouse gases, and said that "the National Academy of Sciences indicates that the increase is due in large part to human activity." He also cautioned that significant scientific uncertainties remain, emphasizing that "the policy challenge is to act in a serious and sensible way, given the limits of our knowledge."

The new report reinforces each of these points, discussing the "considerable uncertainty" about the science, natural variability of the climate, and the fact that "definitive prediction of potential outcomes is not yet feasible."

President Bush's policies are appropriate to the current state of climate-change science. By administering 67 programs to curb greenhouse gas emissions and investing \$4.5 billion each year in research and

development, the administration is responsibly addressing this important issue.

JAMES L. CONNAUGHTON
Chairman, White House Council
on Environmental Quality
Washington, June 7, 2002